



## Seven Mile Herd Management Area Eureka County, Nevada

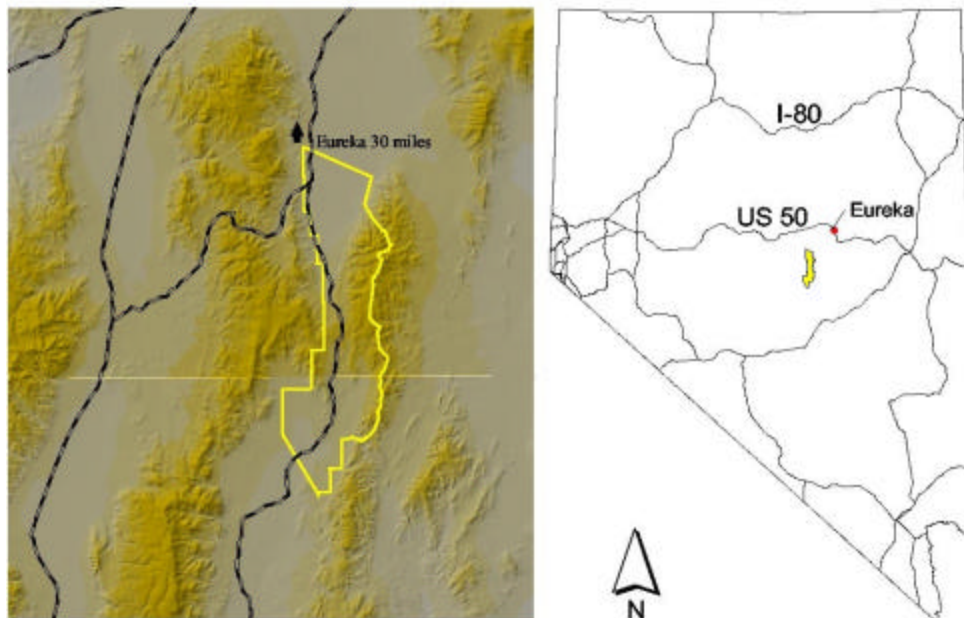


### **Location/Habitat**

The Seven Mile Herd Management Area (HMA) is approximately 30 miles southwest of Eureka, Nevada, in Eureka County. The area consists of 97,480 acres and encompasses a length of 31 miles, and is only 8 miles wide. The terrain across most of the Shoshone-Eureka Planning Area managed by the Battle Mountain Field Office is typical of the Great Basin region with steep north and south trending mountain ranges separated by large sweeping valley bottoms. Nevada has the largest number of mountain ranges in the United States. Temperatures range in excess of 100 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer to less than 20 degrees below zero in the winter. Precipitation is in short supply with an annual total of only 5 to 16 inches. Nevada is the driest state in the nation with the least amount of annual rainfall and the lowest amount of surface water.

This HMA is comprised of a long narrow valley nestled between the Toiyabe National Forest Monitor Range to the west, and the Antelope Range to the east. The lowest points of the valley are 6,300 feet in elevation, reaching 10,105 feet at Nine Mile peak in the Antelope Mountain Range. This narrow HMA serves as the transition point between the Antelope Valley to the north, and the Little Fish Lake Valley to the south.

In addition to wild horses, the HMA is often utilized by domestic cattle and domestic sheep. Wildlife species occurring in the area include mule deer, sage grouse, chukar, coyotes, mountain lions, bobcats, pronghorn antelope and numerous other small mammals, birds, and reptiles.



## **Vegetation**

Vegetation types are distributed according to topography and elevation and the associated precipitation. Within the highest elevations, and subsequently the greatest precipitation, the vegetation consists primarily of pinyon-pine and juniper trees, mountain- and low sagebrush. The lower and drier elevations consist of saltbush, greasewood, sagebrush and a variety of annual and perennial grasses and wildflowers. In some areas it can take 25 acres to support one horse for one month.

## **Herd Description**

Wild horses within this HMA intermingle with wild horses inhabiting adjacent Herd Management Areas (Little Fish Lake and Fish Creek) and Wild Horse Territories (Little Fish Lake and Butler Basin). Wild horses in the Seven Mile HMA are most likely descendants from ranch stock released or escaped, becoming the foundation for today's herd. No specifics exist as to breed type, but most likely were influenced by quarter horse, thoroughbred, and American saddlebred breeds. Typical coat colorations such as bay, brown, black, and sorrel can be found within the Seven Mile herd along with a few greys and buckskins. These horses average between 15 and 16 hands, generally illustrate good confirmation, calm disposition, and are typically well muscled enabling them to negotiate the rugged terrain associated with the HMA.

